

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 054345

REF: MANILA 3200

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO KUALA LUMPUR, JAKARTA, MOSCOW,
USUN NEW YORK FROM SINGAPORE MAR 19 REPEATED YOU:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 1235

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SN, UR

SUBJ: VISIT OF SOVIET DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: SINGAPORE 1184

1. DURING DISCUSSION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM MARCH 16,
I ASKED HIM WHAT HAD TRANSPIRED DURING VISIT OF SOVIET
DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER FIRYUBIN TO SINGAPORE. HE
SAID IT WAS BASICALLY A COURTESY VISIT, BUT THEY DID
DISCUSS LOS, TRADE

AND "THE USUAL CULTURAL THINGS."

RAJARATNAM SAID GOS AND USSR AGREE ON FREE PASSAGE OF
STRAITS BUT DIFFER ON THE ARCHIPELAGO ISSUE. GOS
POSITION IS THAT PRINCIPLE OF FREE PASSAGE IS EQUALLY VALID
IN BOTH CASES. YIELDING TO CLAIMS OF NATIONAL CONTROL
OF ARCHIPELAGOS, HE SAID, WOULD PUT VAST AREAS OF THE WORLD
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UNDER NATIONAL CONTROL WHICH COULD CREATE SERIOUS PROBLEMS

FOR WORLD SHIPPING. FIRYUBIN EXPRESSED SOVIET SUPPORT FOR
ARCHIPELAGO PRINCIPLE.

2. ON TRADE, RAJARATNAM SAID MAIN SOVIET CONCERN IS SOVIET
EXPORT PROCEEDS IN BLOCKED ACCOUNT WHICH, UNDER BILATERAL
TRADE AGREEMENT, HAVE TO BE SPENT FOR GOODS MANUFACTURED
IN SINGAPORE. SOVIETS HAVE FAILED TO PURCHASE SUFFICIENT
VOLUME OF SINGAPORE GOODS TO CLEAR THEIR ACCOUNT AND A
SIZEABLE BALANCE HAS ACCUMULATED. APPARENTLY FIRYUBIN
REQUESTED THAT THIS REQUIREMENT BE EASED OR ELIMINATED.
RAJARATNAM INDICATED THERE WAS NO GIVE ON THIS ISSUE ON
THEIR SIDE. (COMMENT: ALTHOUGH TRADE STATISTICS INDICATE
SOVIET IMPORTS FROM SINGAPORE GREATLY EXCEED THEIR EXPORTS
TO SINGAPORE, MOST SINGAPORE EXPORTS ARE TRANSSHIPMENTS OF
PRIMARY PRODUCTS FROM MALAYSIA. TRADE AGREEMENT PROVIDES
THAT "PROCEEDS RESULTING FROM THE IMPORT INTO SINGAPORE OF
SOVIET GOODS WILL BE UTILIZED FOR COUNTER-IMPORT INTO USSR
OF GOODS MANUFACTURED IN SINGAPORE.")
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